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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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10-18-1965

From: Gwen (no last name)

Gwen unknown

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October 18, 1965

Dear John Allen:

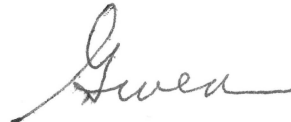
Here is some more material. I hope you'll take the time to read carefully the articles on the "Death of God" emphasis which is shaking up so many people, even though Bonhoeffer said all this a good while ago. You may already be familiar with his Ethics and letters, but if you are not, don't pre-judge him; he doesn't say what one might guess at first glance. I think this is something churchmen will be wrestling with more and more as ministers have to face living in the world rather than being something too separate to get itself smeared by racial troubles or something equally ugly like abortion and dope.

I've also read Fromm's "The Art of Loving" and it's summarized here for you. I would have done the same with Bonhoeffer, but there are so many articles enclosed and they do it better, so I don't think you need it.

Note also the stir Bishop Pike is causing. I think you should have his new book, A TIME FOR CHRISTIAN CANDOR and I am going to ask Clois to get it. By the way, they never have sent me Billy Graham's book. I don't know whether Fidelity failed to get the order off or whether the publish<sup>er</sup>'s slow. I'll ask when I request Pike's book.

Last of all, I think you should have a quote from me--and people like me--  
"My earliest memory of a preacher is somebody who was a discreet fence-walker, who rubbed his palms together and talked of love and forgiveness in vague, inoffensive terms, and who--when he got excited--got excited in talking about Christ's death or who scorched the congregation generally about general sinfulness but who was forbidden, or who thought he was forbidden, to live in the world and take a stand here and there. I think the day of that preacher is gone and that one of the things which has hurt churches--certainly the Methodist church, which I know most about--is that it took our preachers so long to break out of their fearful restraints." Are you going to talk about that in any of your sermons?

Hope all is going well with you.



P.S. Just talked to Rachel. She'll order WORLD AFLAME and A TIME FOR CHRISTIAN CANDOR from the local bookstores and not wait on the other order. She will cancel LUTHERAN EDUCATION and will see if we can get a refund but doesn't think so. I don't either. Nice to talk to you again.